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## HHS / USDA Action Plan

Reducing the Risk of  
*Listeria monocytogenes*

Public Meeting

March 19, 2001



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### Presidential Directive

- May 5, 2000 memorandum
- Administration Goal to reduce *Lm* illness in half by 2005
- Directives to Secretaries of HHS and USDA

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### USDA Directive

Complete proposed regulations that include testing and other measures to:

- prevent cross-contamination in the processing environment;
- ensure that the processing of RTE products meet appropriate standards;
- ensure that products are safe throughout shelf-life.

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### **HHS Directive**

**Develop an action plan to include:**

- control measures for at-risk foods;
- publication of guidance for processors, retailers, and food service facilities;
- enhanced labeling.

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### **HHS / USDA Joint Action Plan**

- Published: January 19 for public comment
- Goal: reduce *Lm* illness by 50% by 2005
- Scope: RTE foods identified in risk assessment as warranting control and warranting additional data
- Eight action areas: short and long-term implementation timelines

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### **Action Plan - Overview**

- 1 - Enhance health care provider & consumer information & education efforts
- 2 - Develop & revise guidance for processors, retailers, & foodservice establishments
- 3 - Develop and deliver industry & regulator training
- 4 - Review & redirect enforcement & regulatory surveillance strategies

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### ***Action Plan - Overview***

- 5 - Propose new regulations & revisions to existing regulations
- 6 - Enhance disease surveillance & outbreak response
- 7 - Initiate projects with retail operations such as delis & salad bars to pilot LM control measures
- 8 - Coordinate research activities

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### ***Joint Action Plan***

#### **Enhance health care provider & consumer information & education efforts**

- focus consumer messages
- inform & educate health care professionals
- develop medical guidance
- obtain maximum outreach to women and women's health care professionals
- collaborate with other public and private organizations

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### ***New Consumer Messages for At-risk Populations***

- **Do not eat refrigerated pates or meat spreads.** Canned or shelf-stable pates or meat spreads may be eaten.
- **Do not eat refrigerated smoked seafood, unless** it is contained in a cooked dish...Canned or shelf-stable smoked seafood may be eaten.

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### ***Joint Action Plan***

**Develop & revise guidance for processors, retailers, & foodservice establishments**

- FDA will develop industry guidance on controlling *Lm* in refrigerated, RTE foods
- FDA will consider revising the Food Code
- FSIS will publish industry guidance on intervention measures

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### ***Joint Action Plan***

**Develop and deliver industry and regulator training**

- FDA / FSIS will provide satellite and interactive web training to industry and regulators
- FSIS will provide technical assistance to small meat / poultry firms

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### ***Joint Action Plan***

**Review & redirect enforcement & regulatory surveillance strategies**

- FDA will redirect domestic inspections
- FDA's domestic and import surveillance sampling program will focus on at-risk products for *Lm* testing

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### ***Joint Action Plan***

#### **Review & redirect enforcement & regulatory surveillance strategies**

- FSIS will revise microbiological sampling programs for RTE meat / poultry products
- FSIS will advance use of instructional labeling for safe use of RTE meat / poultry products
- FSIS will conduct in-depth verification reviews

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### ***Joint Action Plan***

#### **Propose new regulations & revisions to existing regulations**

- FDA will expedite food additive petition reviews for *Lm* control
- FDA / FSIS will consider enhanced labeling
- FDA will assess need for additional regulations to address *Lm* control
- FDA may revise enforcement policies

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### ***Joint Action Plan***

#### **Enhance disease surveillance & outbreak response**

- CDC expanding PulseNet network
- CDC will improve detection and reporting of *Lm* illnesses
- CDC initiated case-control study

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**Joint Action Plan**

Initiate projects with retail operations to pilot *Lm* controls including employee practices

- FDA will collaborate with industry, academia, and other agencies to identify targeted practices
- Conduct applied research to establish *Lm* controls
- Develop guidance and test at select facilities

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**Joint Action Plan**

Coordinate research activities

- FDA, through JIFSAN, funding exposure assessment studies
- FDA will coordinate and conduct research to evaluate commercial treatments

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**Joint Action Plan**

Coordinate research activities

- FDA will initiate research to establish the basis for safety-related date marking
- FDA will undertake research to improve methods and identify virulence factors

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### ***Joint Action Plan***

#### **Coordinate research activities**

**ARS is conducting a multi-year study to examine prevalence of *Lm* in RTE frankfurters at different storage conditions**

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### ***In Conclusion***

- **Obtain stakeholder input on action plan via public meeting**
- **Written comments (due May 21)**

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**Website:**

**<http://www.foodsafety.gov>**



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